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***House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) Endorses President's
Education Proposal***

Washington, D.C. -- House Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL) made the following statement today :

"I'm very pleased that we're moving forward today with President Bush's education reform plan, the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001. I reserved H.R. 1 for the President's education proposal, because I believe that improving our schools should be a top priority for this Congress. It is going to bring much-needed change to America's education system. After 16 years of teaching high school, I know what will and won't work in the classroom – and experience tells me that this is a plan that's going to work.

"Two areas in particular make this education proposal a strong one. The first is that it lets parents who have kids trapped in failing schools move their children to a school where they will learn. If we don't allow parents to rescue their children from these problem schools, the children will suffer – and that's wrong. The President's plan provides us with a common sense way to make sure all our children have a chance to succeed.

"Second, the President's proposal gives local schools more freedom in creating education programs that work, another reason this plan will be a success. Rather than blindly tell schools how to use government money, this legislation will let them craft their own plans – because every school is different.

"The President's proposal gives us the ability to see results in our schools, and to hold those schools accountable. We've held off from making changes in our education system for far too long. It's time we put forward a plan that works, and H. R. 1 is that plan."

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